

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AEC-11

AECE-00 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 /133 W

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P R 151550Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5937

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CNO

CINCLANTFLT

COMFAIRMED

NAVSHIPSYSYSCOM CODE 08

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

COMSUBLANT

USCINCEUR

COMSUBGRU EIGHT

COMSUBREFITRAGRU LA MADDALENA

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9746

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, IT, PBOR

SUBJECT: NPW OPERATIONS AT LA MADDALENA

REF: STATE 086130

1. EMBOFF WAS CALLED TO FOREIGN OFFICE ON JULY 12 BY NATO
OFFICE CHIEF DA RIN TO RECEIVE ORAL RUNDOWN ON SERIES OF
REQUESTS MADE BY ITALIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH DEALING WITH OUR
NPW OPERATIONS AT LA MADDALENA. ON JULY 13 POLITICAL
DIRECTOR DUCCI GAVE DCM MEMORANDUM SETTING FORTH THESE
REQUESTS (SEE SEPTTEL). ACCORDING TO DA RIN, HEALTH MINISTRY
HAD BEEN PRESSING ITALIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE FOR PAST SEVERAL
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MONTHS FOR DATA ON THE NUCLEAR PLANT OF THE SSN'S POTENTIAL

ACCIDENTS INVOLVING THE NUCLEAR REACTORS (INCLUDING THE CONSEQUENCES RESULTING THEREFROM), NUCLEAR/CONVENTIONAL OPERATIONS INCLUDING MAINTENANCE PERFORMED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE TENDER, AND US REGULATIONS REGARDING REACTOR OPERATIONS WHILE THE SSN'S ARE BOTH MOORED AND OPERATING IN THE WATERS ADJACENT TO LA MADDALENA. OTHER REQUESTS OF THE HEALTH MINISTRY CONCERN THE QUARTERLY RADIOLOGICAL MONITORING SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY THE U.S. AT LA MADDALENA AND A PROPOSAL TO HAVE THE U.S. FINANCE A NET WORK OF CONTINUOUS MONITORING DEVICES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE TENDER.

2. DA RIN SAID THAT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAD ATTEMPTED TO TURN OFF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, BUT ITS DELAYING TACTICS PROVED UNSUCCESSFUL AND DEFENSE DECIDED TO REFER THE ENTIRE PROBLEM TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR COORDINATION WITH US.

3. EMBOFF REMINDED DA RIN OF THE DISCUSSIONS THEY HAD HAD DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS ON THESE ASPECTS OF NPW OPERATIONS AND THE FACT THAT THE US IS SEVERELY CONSTRAINED BY THE SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIPS. ON THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR REACTOR ACCIDENTS EMBOFF DREW ON REFTEL AND NOTED THAT COMSUBGRU EIGHT HAD GONE OVER THIS GROUND WITH ADMIRAL FEDELE ON MAY 28. DA RIN ACKNOWLEDGED ALL THIS, BUT OBSERVED THAT, GIVEN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH MANDATE FOR LA MADDALENA, THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO PASS THE REQUESTS ON TO US. HE SAID HEALTH'S REQUESTS WERE "MAXIMUM" IN NATURE AND THEY WOULD SETTLE FOR A LOT LESS. HE ASKED THAT WE BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE. EMBOFF EMPHASIZED HE COULD GIVE NO ASSURANCES ON ANY OF THE REQUESTS AND, INDEED, WAS VERY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT WHAT WE COULD DO. HE ASKED DA RIN TO SEND A MEMORANDUM TO THE EMBASSY OUTLINING THE REQUESTS. ON JULY 13, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS DUCCI PERSONALLY GAVE DCM MEMORANDUM. DURING THIS MEETING, DUCCI MADE SAME POINT AS DA RIN, I.E., WE KNOW THERE ARE LIMITS AS TO WHAT YOU CAN PROVIDE, BUT DO THE BEST YOU CAN TO MAKE IT LOOK GOOD.

4. COMMENT: WE FULLY APPRECIATE HOW THESE REQUESTS WILL BE RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE WE MUST DO
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THAT WE CAN TO ASSIST THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND DEFENSE IN ITS DEALINGS WITH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH. WE WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE UNCLASSIFIED TECHNICAL MATERIAL AS IS IN ANY WAY RELEVANT. (SHEEF QUANTITY WOULD NOT BE UNHELPFUL IN THIS EXERCISE.) ALSO, WE RECOMMEND THAT WE AGREE TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION IN THE CASE OF LA MADDALENA AND PROVIDE THE QUARTERLY MONITORING SURVEY RESULTS TO BOTH THE MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE AND HEALTH. WE ALSO THINK IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS IF COMSUBGRU EIGHT WERE AUTHORIZED

TO MEET WITH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S TECHNICAL COMMISSION TO DISCUSS ACCIDENT PLANS FOR LA MADDALENA AS HE PREVIOUSLY DID SO EFFECTIVELY WITH THE ITALIAN NAVY. ON THE REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING A CONTINUOUS MONITORING NETWORK, WE HAVE NO INFORMATION BEYOND THAT PROVIDED IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE MEMORANDUM. WE HOPE THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF "LOGISTIC ASSISTANCE", REFERRED TO IN PARA 2, REFTEL, MEANS THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO AT LEAST DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WITH THEM. PERHAPS, COMSUBGRU EIGHT COULD PURSUE THIS REQUEST WITH THE TECHNICAL COMMISSION IF HE IS AUTHORIZED TO REVIEW THE ACCIDENT PLAN QUESTION WITH IT. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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